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(*d*) who is in charge of the hostel and what is his explanation to the authorities concerned; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the head of the hostel would not permit the parents to remove their suffering children when they were in an unconscious state for medical aid?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Cholera.

(*d*) The Reverend W. Clewes was the manager and Mr. J. T. Rajanayagam the headmaster of the institution. There were also resident masters in charge of the different units of the hostel.

The headmaster's explanation was that the outbreak was due to a very virulent type of cholera infection in the food eaten by the boarders at night.

(*e*) It is not a fact that any student was denied medical aid. All patients were admitted into hospital and received immediate medical attention.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" With reference to answer to clause (*d*) of the question where it is stated ' the outbreak was due to a very virulent type of cholera infection in the food eaten by the boarders at night,' may I know what action has been taken against those who were responsible for the death of some of the boarders? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" As far as I am aware, nobody was particularly responsible for that, and an investigation was made and the necessary sanitary improvements have been effected. Beyond that, no notice seemed called for in the matter."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether cholera was prevalent in Erode prior to its outbreak in the boarding house? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know what the Government mean by saying in answer to clause (*c*) that it was due to cholera and then again in clause (*d*) that it was due to a ' virulent type of cholera infection in the food eaten by the boarders at night ' ? Evidently, cholera was confined only to that area? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I cannot say that without notice."

Mr. Champion's scheme of elementary education.

* 356 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many municipal councils, district boards and educational councils have approved Mr. Champion's scheme of centralizing and consolidating elementary education; and

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(b) whether it is the intention of the Government when the scheme is brought into operation to do away with all or any of the elementary schools maintained by the Labour department?

A.—(a) Local bodies which maintain elementary schools have alone been advised to prepare schemes in the light of the recommendations made in Mr. Champion's report and submit them to the Director of Public Instruction. Seventeen taluk boards and nine municipal councils have so far addressed the Director in the matter. Of these, nine taluk boards and all the municipal councils have generally approved of the recommendations in the report. No communication has been received from any District Educational Council approving of the recommendations.

(b) If a school maintained by the Labour department is found to be superfluous and if the pupils in that school can be provided for in any of the existing schools, its removal will be considered provided there is some guarantee that the facilities for pupils of the depressed classes will not be diminished after the Labour school has been closed.

Alleged incompleteness of the list of areas suitable for opening schools.

* 357 Q.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the list of places noted in Annexure B of the Director of Public Instruction's proceedings R.O.C. No. 1855-B/29, dated 19th June 1930, is incomplete with regard to Sankari Taluk Board;

(b) whether any correspondence has passed between the President of the Taluk Board and the Government as regards the inclusion of certain important places which he considered suitable for opening girls' schools in the list issued by the Director of Public Instruction; and

(c) why the suggestion of the President of the Taluk Board was not taken into consideration?

A.—(a) The lists of school-less centres are prepared on the basis of the population recorded in the Village Census Statistics of 1921 and in consultation with the Inspectresses of Schools. The list referred to in the question is the third list and is as complete as possible. The Director of Public Instruction proposes to revise it in the light of the census figures for 1931 as soon as they are available.

(b) Yes—between the President of the Taluk Board and the Director of Public Instruction.

(c) The centres suggested by the President of the Taluk Board, Sankari, had a population of less than 2,000 according to the census of 1921. The Government are not subsidizing local boards towards the cost of opening and maintaining girls' schools in centres with a population of less than 2,000.